

## Message Text

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USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3721

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY

REF: STATE 036264

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM UK CHARGE LOGAN TO SYG LUNS CONCERNING REORGANIZATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY. WE BELIEVE DPC BRIEFING WHICH UK OFFERS PARA 3 WOULD PROVE USEFUL AND INTEND TO ENCOURAGE ALLIES TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER. BEGIN TEXT:

REORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY

1. YOU RECENTLY ASKED SIR EDWARD PECK ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE STUDIES BEING UNDERTAKEN INTO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY, AND ENQUIRED WHETHER WE INTENDED TO GIVE A PRESENTATION TO THE ALLIANCE ON THIS MATTER.

2. A GOOD DEAL OF INFORMATION HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED ABOUT OUR IDEAS. LAST DECEMBER, WHEN THE PROVISIONAL OUTCOME OF THE UK DEFENCE REVIEW WAS PRESENTED TO THE DPC, FIELD MARSHAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SIR MICHAEL CARVER SAID THAT THE AIM OF THE REORGANISATION WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN THE MAXIMUM COMBAT CAPABILITY WHILE MAKING AS MUCH SAVING AS POSSIBLE IN OVERHEADS. IN PARTICULAR HE EMPHASISED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REDUCTION IN ADVANCE OF

AN MBFR AGREEMENT IN THE FORCES WHICH WE MAINTAIN IN GERMANY UNDER THE BRUSSELS TREATY OBLIGATIONS AND THAT OUR INTENTION IS TO MAINTAIN THE STRENGTH OF THE MAJOR WEAPONS THAT FORM THE BASIS OF OUR COMBAT CAPABILITY, WITH A SMALL INCREASE IN THE ANTI-ARMOUR FIELD. FOLLOWING THE DEFENCE REVIEW PRESENTATION, MORE DETAILED INFORMATION WAS GIVEN TO SHAPE IN JANUARY AND AGAIN IN APRIL. SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE REORGANISATION AND ITS OBJECTIVES WAS ALSO MADE IN THE UK DEFENCE WHITE PAPER (CHAPTER I, PARAGRAPHS 47-53) PUBLISHED IN THE SPRING, OF WHICH I CIRCULATED COPIES UNDER COVER OF MY LETTER TO YOU DATED 19 MARCH 1975. I ATTACH THE RELEVANT EXTRACT FOR CONVENIENCE.

3. THERE IS STILL A GREAT DEAL OF WORK TO BE DONE ON THE DETAILS OF HOW WE SHALL ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES AND A NUMBER OF STUDIES AND TRIALS ARE IN HAND AT THE PRESENT TIME WITH THE AIM OF RESOLVING OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS OF IMPLEMENTATION. HOWEVER, THE UNITED KINGDOM MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE IS INFORMING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE THAT WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ARRANGE A PRESENTATION TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE SUBJECT MATTER IS LIKELY TO BE PURELY MILITARY IN CHARACTER, WE SHOULD BE PLEASE TO GIVE THE PRESENTATION TO THE DPC LATER THE SAME DAY OR THE FOLLOWING DAY, IF THIS IS SO DESIRED.

4. IT WILL ALSO, OF COURSE, BE POSSIBLE TO PURSUE CONSULTATION ON THIS SUBJECT THROUGH THE ANNUAL NATO DEFENCE REVIEW PROCEDURE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE AUTUMN FOLLOWING THE SUBMISSION OF THE NATIONAL REPLIES TO THE 1975 DEFENCE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE. ON PRESENT PLANS, THE INTENTION IS THAT THE NEW ORGANISATION WILL BEGIN TO BE INTRODUCED IN BAOR NEXT YEAR BUT WILL NOT BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED THERE UNTIL THE END OF 1978.

5. I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO ALL PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DPC, AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

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END TEXT.  
PEREZ

CONFIDENTIAL

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**To:** STATE  
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